

BUFFALO NEWS.

THE initial meeting for the season of the Nurses' Association was held September 3 at the Guard of Honor rooms, the president, Miss Damer, in the chair.

Owing probably to the heavy rain, there was a small attendance.

Three applications for membership were presented, and two for the sick benefit. A notification of the appointment of the president as a member of the Woman's Board of Managers of the Pan-American Exposition was read.

The question box was opened and the question, "Is the instruction received in invalid cookery in the training-school of practical use to the nurse in private practice?" was followed by a lively discussion, the methods employed in the different schools being explained. A month or two in the diet-kitchen following a course of lessons was considered desirable.

It was decided to have a lecture given on foods and food values at an early date.

Another question, "Is the standard rate of twenty dollars per week for professional services strictly adhered to?" was answered with a decided negative. When from feelings of humanity, friendship, or necessity, a nurse agrees to accept a lower sum for the term of her engagement, it was considered best to give one or more weeks for nothing than to lower the price per week.

At the June meeting the subject of trained attendants was discussed and their competition after a few months' or a year's service as such with the regularly trained nurses. A committee was appointed to wait upon the directors of the Woman's Educational and Industrial Union, which has conducted such a class for years, and to point out to them the injustice to the patients as well as the nurses of this superficial and totally inadequate training.

We are glad to say that as the result of this committee's effort, the directors of the Union have decided to discontinue these classes, confine the lectures to young wives and mothers, hold no examinations, and grant no certificates. The graduates of the Buffalo General Hospital Training-School have formed an alumnae association.

A LOCAL society of trained nurses has been formed in Cleveland, Ohio, with Miss McMillan, principal of Lakeside Hospital, as president.

THE trained nurses of Rochester, New York, were the first to form a county society, with State organization in view.

STATE ORGANIZATION IN NEW YORK.

A FEW nurses interested in the formation of a State Association met informally in New York City last spring to discuss the advisability of organizing. The multiplication of societies is undesirable unless it can be shown that this is necessary, and that the one proposed will do what can be done by no other. Our National Association is broad in its scope, and all embracing, as we hope it may become, in breaking down school prejudices, establishing an *esprit de corps* among nurses, and uniting them in common interests.

One thing for which it is striving is the elevation of the standard of nursing, —to have better schools, better trained women at the head of all schools, and

that the diploma which each nurse receives on being graduated will be what it professes to be, a certification of the fact that she is a *trained* nurse.

The diploma now held by a nurse from Smith's Corners or Split Rock Hospital, with four beds, seven nurses, and six-months' hospital training, has as much legal value as that of a graduate of Bellevue, Philadelphia, or Johns Hopkins, who has spent two or three years in hard work to obtain it. "Practical" nurses, trained attendants, trained nursery maids, discharged pupils, and probationers all don the "stripes," compete with, and claim the name and rank of those who justly are the only ones entitled to bear them. Is there any use in raising the wall, making it more difficult to obtain admittance by climbing, when it is so easy to crawl in underneath?

Is the nursing profession a meaningless term? Has it any rights, any privileges, secured to it by legislation? Can it say who shall enter its ranks or who shall be debarred from practising?

Do we desire to make it so that those who bear the name of nurse shall be so not in name only, but in deed and in truth?

If so, a State Association is necessary which can work for State registration and a uniform system of education.

The importance of this was impressed upon all those present at the New York meeting, and a committee was appointed consisting of Miss Merrit and Miss Dock, of New York; Miss Damer and Miss Nye, of Buffalo, and Miss Allerton, of Rochester, to make arrangements for a State meeting to be held at Albany during the fall to discuss organization and take action towards the formation of a State Association.

The committee was requested to notify all organized nursing societies in the State and ask them to send delegates to this meeting prepared to act. It is hoped that where there are no organized societies, these will be formed at once, either as *alumnæ*, city, town, or county associations, and that names of new organizations with address of secretary be sent to Miss Annie Damer, 55 West Mohawk Street, Buffalo, New York, who will be glad to furnish any information.

ORDER OF SPANISH-AMERICAN WAR NURSES.

MISS M. E. HIBBARD wishes to thank the members of the preliminary "order" of "The Spanish-American War Nurses" for their interested efforts, which have materially assisted in making this association a permanent one to-day.

As chairman of the proposed "order," it had always been Miss Hibbard's wish that the organization should be controlled by members of the nursing profession, and that consistency should be a virtue that would mark a state of progress.

In thanking the members who have from time to time expressed their appreciation of the work being done by the committee, Miss Hibbard would like to recommend the desirability of establishing and maintaining an *esprit de corps* among its permanent members. Miss Hibbard wishes to express her sincere regret at not being able to accept a nomination for office, as the uncertainty of location which is consequent upon the work of her profession would greatly interfere with the perfect performance of the duties incumbent upon the office.

As a member of the "Spanish-American War Nurses," Miss Hibbard will always be most interested and hopes to keep in touch with all the members.